

Site Name: Cedar Chemical Corporation Site
Location: West Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas
On-Scene Coordinator: Gary Moore

Background

The Cedar Chemical Corporation Site, originally constructed in 1970, is a defunct chemical manufacturing facility which shut down operations in March 8, 2002 and filed for bankruptcy. The facility was formally abandoned by a bankruptcy court action on October 18, 2002. On October 11, 2002, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) requested EPA assistance to address hazards associated with the site.

The facility consists of six (6) separate processing units, laboratories, a finished goods warehouse, a stormwater pond, a wastewater treatment plant, a spare parts warehouse, a maintenance shop, an administration building and various other buildings, all located on 48 acres. The key problem areas of the site include those with abandoned chemicals, possible buried drums, a buried drum vault filled with 200- 300 drums, ground water contamination, surface and subsurface soil contamination, as well as abandoned stormwater and wastewater treatment systems.

Activities to Date

EPA Emergency Response personnel have visited the site twice: once prior to a bankruptcy hearing in New York for providing testimony to the court and evaluation for EPA removal actions, and the second time just prior to abandonment to evaluate the continuing need for a removal action and the potential for National Priorities List (NPL) ranking.

The EPA has done a Prescore on the site to determine if there is a potential for this site to be ranked on the NPL. The Prescore indicated that it would be very unlikely that the site would score on the NPL due primarily to the fact that there are limited targets for offsite exposure.

The ADEQ is conducting enforcement activities to see if it can get the parent company, Trans-Resources, Inc., (TRI) and a joint venture company, Riceco, to conduct the necessary cleanup activities. The ADEQ has indicated that both TRI and Riceco have indicated that they are not willing to participate in the cleanup activities. Additionally, the EPA is conducting its own enforcement activities to determine the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs). This includes an effort to gather the necessary information to pierce the corporate veil to make the parent a PRP. The EPA plans to work with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to the extent possible to address the site conditions.

The EPA currently has an Action Memo in routing to address the following: laboratory chemicals; remaining chemicals in tanks, piping, and equipment; abandoned product and wastes located in product warehouse; and, other miscellaneous chemicals scattered across the site. The

ADEQ will continue to maintain security to address its cost share to this action.

After the completion of the EPA removal action described above the following environmental issues will remain: overflow of stormwater and wastewater treatment ponds; surface/subsurface soil contamination; the drum vault; ground water contamination; and, other buried drums. Due to the fact that the site will not rank on the NPL, these remaining environmental issues will most likely need to be address by the ADEQ. The ADEQ has been in discussions with companies that may be interested in the facility.